

WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1946.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit herewith my Annual Report of the health of this district. With this in brief detail is incorporated a report of the Sanitary Inspectors' multitudinous duties.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W.A.D.LAWSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

S T A F F.

Medical Officer of Health :- W.A.D.Lawson, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H., D.O.M.

Sanitary Inspector :- J.J.Beresford, S.I.E.B., A.R.San.Inst

Meat Inspector :- J.H.Poles, M.R.C.V.S.

General Statistics.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	23,362.
Number of inhabited houses	..		...	2,395.
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£26,274.
Product of a 1d rate	...		...	£104.
Population (Registrar General's figure)	...		...	8,283.

+++++

VITAL STATISTICS. (1946)

Population - Registrar General's Estimates .....8,283.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	
Live Births Legitimate.	62.	83.	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 18.83.
" " Illegitimate.	5.	6.	
Total :	67.	89.	

An expected and appreciable increase.

Stillbirths Legitimate.	2.	2.	A rate of 25.64 per 1,000 births.
" Illegitimate.	-	-	
Total :	2.	2.	

Deaths of infants under one year Legitimate.	3.	3.	A rate of 38.46 per 1,000 live births.
Deaths of infants under one year Illegitimate.	-	-	
Total :	3.	3.	

A very satisfactory rate indeed and an important criterion of the satisfactory conditions in the area. The significance is, however, greatly diminished by the fact that our population figures, birth rate figures and all others which go with them are too meagre on which to base any absolute conclusions.

101 Deaths in an estimated population of 8,283 gives a crude death rate of 12.19 per 1,000.

This rate is almost identical with that for England and Wales.

It should be remembered that the crude rate takes no account of the proportion of population in the different age groups.



SUMMARY OF CAUSES OF DEATHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Cerebro-spinal Fever.	1.	-
Tuberculosis respiratory system.	2.	1.
" other forms.	-	-
Influenza.	-	1.
Measles.	-	-
Cancer - all forms.	3.	9.
Intercranial vascular lesions.	7.	9.
Heart disease.	17.	16.
Other disease of the circulatory system.	1.	1.
Bronchitis.	-	1.
Pneumonia.	8.	1.
Ulcer of stomach.	2.	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	1.
Other digestive diseases.	-	1.
Nephritis.	1.	2.
Premature birth.	1.	2.
Con.mal. birth injury inf.disease.	1.	-
Suicide.	-	1
All other causes.	8.	3.
	<hr/>	
Total :	52.	49.
	<hr/>	

The following cases of infectious disease were notified in 1946.

Whooping cough .....	1	Pneumonia.....	18
Jaundice (Catarrhal)		Puerperal pyrexia.....	1
" (Influenzal) 15		Scarlet fever.....	34
Tuberculoses :-		Erysipelas.....	4
Pulmonary.....	5	Dysentery.....	11
Glands.....	7	Diphtheria.....	1
Opthalmia Neonatorum...	2	Malaria.....	1

Total : 100

There was a mild epidemic of scarlet fever mainly, but not entirely, in the last quarter of the year.

27 cases were treated home - Being satisfactorily isolated.  
7 " " removed to isolation. The average isolation period in hospital was 33 days.

The case of malaria was in a returned member of the forces who had suffered from the disease out East.

There was a rather heavy notification of cases of pneumonia which disease also figures in the death rate. I have no explanation to offer.

Although there were a number of cases of Dysentery notified, most of these were diagnosed on clinical rather than bacteriological evidence. One case was definitely in a demobilised soldier.

TABLE SHOWING INCIDENCE OF T.B. NOTIFICATIONS DURING 1946.

Age periods	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	Respiratory.		Non Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non Respiratory.	
	M..	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5.	-	1	1	4	-	-	-	-
15.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25.	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
35.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
45.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 upwards.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals.	4.	1.	2.	5.	1.	1.	-	-

One of the sad aftermaths of prolonged war is to see the number of cases diagnosed as tuberculosis rising, and still worse to find this preventable scourge figuring as one of the most important causes of mortality. Sadder still is the fact that its incidence, as a fatal disease, is noticable some thirty years before that other great enemy of mankind cancer, where the death rate figures remain low until about the age of 50 years.

Public spirited Councillors are not alone in their wish to see everything possible is done to combat this disease. And it must be realised that this is primarily a matter for the larger administrative area, the County Councils, who are the authority having the responsibility for the welfare of Tuberculosis cases, and even the Ministry of Health.

All we can do is to trust to the vigilance of our local medical practitioners and nurses to see that cases are detected and notified as early as possible, and to our County Tuberculosis Officers to do their best with accommodation at their command to see that the urgent and dangerous cases are promptly placed in sanatoria, both for the patients' welfare and the protection of those whom they might otherwise infect.

Rest, good food and hygienic surroundings still remain our chief weapons, and the staffing of hospitals are greater difficulties even than the provision of sufficient beds.



DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION FIGURES.

1946.

Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation in the authority's area.

Number of children who were given a secondary or reinforcing injection.

<u>Under 5</u> <u>years.</u>	<u>5 - 14</u> <u>years.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
56.	9.	65.	4.

No. on Register - 103

Attendances at the Infant Welfare Clinic.

New Cases.	Ages.		Mothers.
	0 - 1 yr.	1 - 5 yrs.	
68.	798.	880.	1570

By the courtesy of Nurse Rose I give the figures of attendance at the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic.

The Clinic is under the supervision of the County Council not the Urban District and the 3 local General Practitioners in the area give their services voluntarily, attending in turns weekly.

Caravan Camps      The two camps gave no cause for complaint during the year.

Milk      The number of registered cow-keepers is 31.  
Four producers have retail deliveries of milk in the Town. There are 7 "Accredited" licensed producers of milk. The general conditions of the cows and buildings steadily improves, and the number of "Accredited" licence holders increases year by year.

Other foods During the year the Sanitary Inspector condemned as unfit for human food :-

120 Tins	(Peas & beans, Fish, meats & soups, Fruits, Jams treacle and milk).
12 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	Cheese - Maggoty and decomposed.
6 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	Butter - Rancid.
28 "	Margarine - Damaged & tainted in transit.
8 "	Bacon - Tainted.
1 "	Dates - Decomposed.
15 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	Sugar - Damaged & contaminated in transit.
$\frac{1}{2}$ "	Suet - Tainted.

Meat Inspector Meat is inspected in the shops and at the slaughter houses in the district by Mr. Poles.

Infestation Besides those premises which have contracts with the County Council to destroy rats two other premises became infested. The occupiers agreed to pay the County Council and the premises were cleared.

### WATER SUPPLY

Samples were taken for analysis :-

(a) Water from a well intended for use at a dairy was analysed and found unfit. Treatment of the water with Deasan hypochlorite was carried out and later samples were satisfactory.

(b) Water from the Dyke at a farm in Black Bush, intended for use in dairy work was analysed and found unfit, but after treatment of the water as at the farm at Turves the later samples were satisfactory.

Both of these are treated regularly and continually so that the milk for these farms can pass the bacteriological test.

(c) Water from a well supplying a cottage in Church Street was analysed and found satisfactory.

(d) Water from the well supplying two cottages in Mill Road was analysed and found unfit. Water from the mains has been laid on and the well closed.

### SCHOOLS

During the year modern drainage has been provided at the Senior Boys and Girls Schools. The provision of modern drainage in place of the pail closets will stop a source of potential danger to the health of the School Children especially in the warmer weather.

It is a matter for regret that money and time had to be wasted on enquiries, representations and even an unsuccessful court case before so obviously necessary and easily effected sanitary improvement was carried out.